



For Immediate Release



Rendering courtesy of the High Line

## **IBRAHIM MAHAMA** *57 Forms of Liberty*

An installation connecting industrial histories and nature

**April 2020 – March 2021**  
**On the High Line at 16th St.**

**New York, NY (February 18, 2020)** — High Line Art announces *57 Forms of Liberty*, a new High Line Commission by artist Ibrahim Mahama. *57 Forms of Liberty* is an inverted industrial tank with a tree sprouting from its mouth. Mahama's work will be installed on the High Line's Northern Spur Preserve over 10th Avenue at 16th Street, and will be on view from April 2020 through March 2021. Ibrahim Mahama, *57 Forms of Liberty*, is organized by Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art.

For the High Line, Mahama presents *57 Forms of Liberty*, an inverted industrial tank from a defunct manufacturing facility in Wilmington, North Carolina. The installation is inspired by a rusted smokestack the artist saw at the locomotive workshop in Sekondi, Ghana that now has a tree growing from its mouth. For Mahama, the workshop is an important reference to the

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British use of railways to divide and exploit resources until Ghana regained its independence in 1957. By installing this work on the High Line, Mahama draws connections across continents between these different industrial histories. The sculpture on the High Line also has a tree growing from its top, an important image for the artist that mirrors the torch of the Statue of Liberty to the south, and the non-human agents that continue to reinvent the conditions for living on this planet, even among the structures built and abandoned by humans.

Ibrahim Mahama uses large-scale installations of found materials to reference the movement of goods and people around the world. He has wrapped entire buildings with tapestries of jute sacks sewn together by hundreds of volunteers, stacked wooden crates to create imposing walls, and replaced the flags of the United Nations with tattered food sacks. By using these containers for shipping goods, Mahama points to how it's often easier for commodities to transverse borders than it is for people. For Mahama, it is important to bring together objects from different times and places to better understand their shared histories.

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Ibrahim Mahama (b. 1987, Tamale, Ghana) lives and works in Accra, Ghana. Recent solo exhibitions have been featured at institutions including Fondazione Giuliani, Rome, Italy (2019); The Whitworth, University of Manchester, Manchester International Festival, Manchester, England (2019); Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milan, Italy (2019); and daadgalerie, Berlin, Germany (2018). Notable group exhibitions include *Dirty Protest*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California (2019); *Histórias afro-atlânticas*, Museu de Arte de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (2018); and *Future Generation Art Prize Exhibition*, Venice, Italy and Kiev, Ukraine (2017). Mahama's work has been presented in major international exhibitions including the Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia (2020, forthcoming); 6th Lumbashi Biennale, Lumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo (2019); Ghana Pavilion, 58th Venice Biennale (2019); La Biennale de l'Art africain contemporain: DAK'ART, Dakar, Senegal (2018); documenta 14, Kassel, Germany and Athens, Greece (2017); and 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2015).

### **ABOUT HIGH LINE ART**

Founded in 2009, High Line Art commissions and produces a wide array of artwork, including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Led by Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art Cecilia Alemani, and presented by the High Line, the art program invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the unique architecture, history, and design of the park, and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

For further information about High Line Art, please visit [thehighline.org/art](https://thehighline.org/art).

### **ABOUT THE HIGH LINE**

The High Line is both a nonprofit organization and a public park on the West Side of Manhattan. Through our work with communities on and off the High Line, we're devoted to reimagining public spaces to create connected, healthy neighborhoods and cities.

Built on a historic, elevated rail line, the High Line was always intended to be more than a park. You can walk through gardens, view art, experience a performance, enjoy food and beverage, or connect with friends and neighbors—all while enjoying a unique perspective of New York City.



Nearly 100% of our annual budget comes through donations. The High Line is owned by the City of New York and we operate under a license agreement with NYC Parks.

### **SUPPORT**

Lead support for High Line Art comes from Amanda and Don Mullen. Major support for High Line Art is provided by Shelley Fox Aarons and Philip E. Aarons, The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston, and Charina Endowment Fund. High Line Art is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council, under the leadership of Speaker Corey Johnson.

@HighLineArtNYC #IbrahimMahama @ibrahimmahama

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